



# The NUNES Report

## Congressman Nunes Urges Governor to Include Water Storage in Bond Initiative

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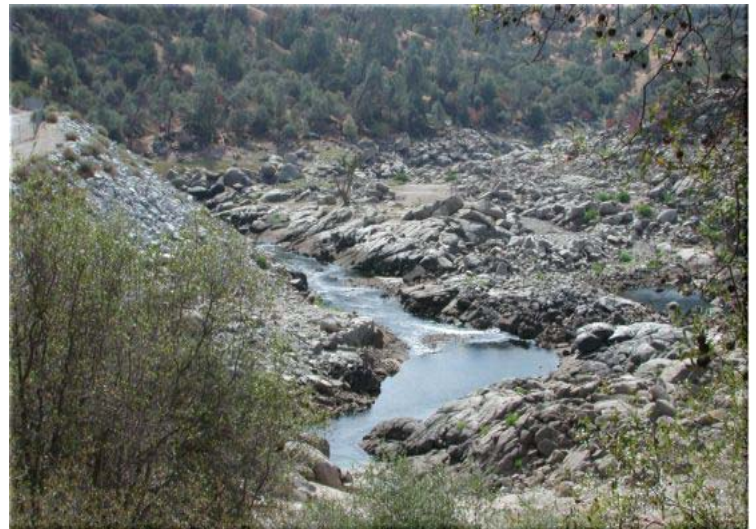
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Recently, Rep. Nunes took time to express his thoughts to Governor Schwarzenegger about the potential infrastructure bond initiative. While the proposal in its current form attempts to address the many infrastructure needs in California, Rep. Nunes is particularly concerned about the lack of proposed funding for the development of new water storage facilities in California, specifically water storage on the Upper San Joaquin River above Millerton Lake.

Since arriving in Washington, Congressman Nunes has continuously fought for federal involvement in this critical project. This included a federal authorization for a feasibility study and millions of dollars of support. While work at the federal level will continue until this project is completed, many believe there needs to be a strong state component to the construction of the project.

"Although the state and federal governments have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on environmental restoration, not a single major surface storage facility has been built in the San Joaquin Valley in over half a century," said Rep. Nunes.



Upper San Joaquin River near site of proposed dam at Temperance Flat

"Without specific language in support of water storage projects in the bond initiative, we will most certainly find ourselves ten years down the road again with no new storage. This is simply unacceptable and is a threat to the livelihood of all Californians," he added.

The State of California continues to face a water crisis in which its water supplies have become inadequate to meet expanding needs. Demands by domestic users, industry, municipal users, and environmental needs continue to grow with no relief in sight. New storage capability would go a long way to meet the needs

of the farmers and urban centers of the San Joaquin Valley, the metropolitan areas of Southern California and the Bay Area, and would provide essential water flows necessary for the restoration of downstream habitats on watersheds throughout the state. While there are numerous water storage studies currently underway within the CALFED process, the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Study has the strong support of the agriculture community, water districts, and local governments that surround the watershed.

### Our Mission Statement

To ensure our constituents and all Americans live free and prosperous lives in a healthy and safe environment by serving, communicating, protecting and representing them in a professional and caring manner.

### Quick Facts

Rep. Devin Nunes maintains two offices in the 21st Congressional District to serve the needs of his constituents.

His main office is in Visalia at 113 N. Church St., Suite 208, 93291. The telephone number is 733-3861.

His Fresno County office is in Clovis at 264 Clovis Ave., Suite 206, 93612. The telephone number is 323-5235.

## Work on K Street Overpass Begins

On Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Devin Nunes, along with a number of city and county officials, kicked off the start of the K Street overpass improvement project. In 2003, the California Department of Transportation found that the K Street off-ramp from Northbound Highway 99 did not meet safety standards and subsequently closed down the ramp. The closure was quite the headache for folks trying to travel to the Ag Center, southern Tulare, or to the Tulare Industrial area. The completion of this project will restore traffic flows to this growing region.



Rep. Nunes, flanked by CHP Officer Mark Walker (left) and Tulare Mayor Richard Ortega (right), applaud the start of the project

“Having a safe and adequate off ramp on the south side of Tulare near the Ag Center is a necessity for the community’s long term health and viability,” said Rep Nunes. He added, “This is just one of the many improvements that is needed on Highway 99, and I look forward to addressing more of the transportation needs in Tulare and Fresno counties.”

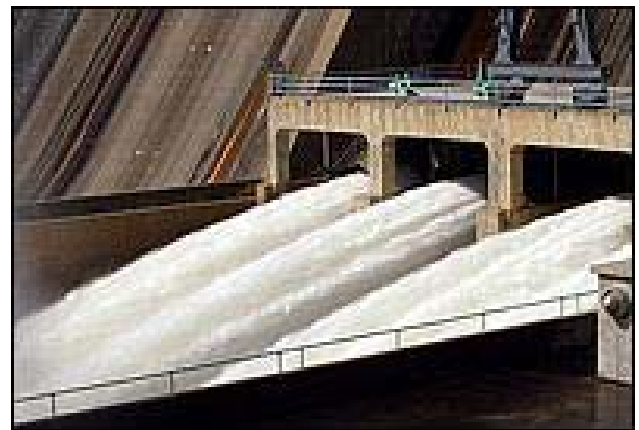
With the assistance of more than \$1 million in federal dollars secured by Congressman Nunes, the project will remove the existing Northbound left lane exit ramp and make a new off-ramp near Avenue 200. Work will also include improved lighting and sound reduction materials for surrounding neighborhoods.

## Flooding Leads to Large Releases from Friant Dam

Upon being informed that water managers had to release more than 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Friant Dam due to weeks of heavy rain, Congressman Nunes contacted the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and convinced them to develop a market for this water as soon as possible by eliminating all required payments.

In doing so, folks who could not previously afford the water were able to relieve some of the flood flow. Furthermore, it provided an opportunity for water banking so the San Joaquin Valley can survive during dry years.

“The first priority is to ensure that we are doing everything possible to allevi-



Excess floodwater streams out of Friant Dam as a result of heavy rains

ate downstream flooding and water loss,” said Rep. Nunes.

As the crisis receded, Congressman Nunes took the opportunity to continue pressing for additional storage projects, “This is another prime example of the

need to create more above ground storage on the Upper San Joaquin River. Failing to do so will lead to more floods, which we can’t afford to have happen.”



## Milk Regulatory Equity Act Passes House and is Signed by President



Nunes victorious in fight for fairness in milk markets

A bill authored by Congressman Nunes, the Milk Regulatory Equity Act (MREA), was signed into law by President Bush on April 11. The bill makes a number of changes to federal law and resolves serious regulatory challenges faced by dairy farmers and processors in the Western United States.

"The new law will prevent special interests from gaming our nation's dairy programs," said Rep. Nunes.

Under previous law, businesses could escape regulations by building a milk plant in a federally regulated area but not sell milk there. Instead, the plant would sell all of its milk into a state regulated region. Since California cannot regulate out-of-state milk and previous law did not permit the federal regu-

lators to act, these businesses were able to avoid all regulation.

The Congressman added, "In a marketplace where all other dairy farmers and processors are required to comply with either federal or state regulations, this unfair advantage was seriously disrupting the market."

Predatory market behavior was driving out competition, with no positive results for consumers. The MREA eliminates loopholes in the law thereby restoring fairness.

Find out what Rep. Devin Nunes is doing by visiting his website at [www.nunes.house.gov](http://www.nunes.house.gov)

## Rep. Nunes attends Resources Committee Water Hearing in Fresno

In his continuing effort to reform the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Rep. Nunes attended a field hearing in April to question a number of Valley water experts on the need for reform.

At the hearing, held at the Fresno Fair Grounds, witnesses described the impact that the CVPIA has had on their industry or community. A number of questions were raised about the effectiveness and impact of the 14 year-old environmental law that radically changed the operation of the Central Valley Project.

"Since 1992, CVPIA has spent more than three-quarters of a billion dollars on environmental restoration efforts with little to no success. The American taxpayers deserve to have an



Congressman Nunes listens on as folks give testimony on the impacts of CVPIA

accurate accounting of how these dollars were spent and what exactly they have done to help restore fish populations," said Rep. Nunes.

In September of last year, Congressman Nunes intro-

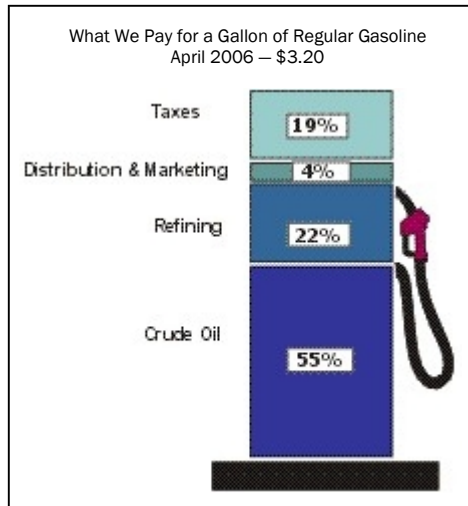
duced H.R. 3691 to amend, preserve, or clarify several provisions under the law, some of which include:

- Reserves 800,000 acre-feet of water for environmental restoration but allows for the recapturing of the water related to environ-

mental restoration.

- Maintains current CVPIA obligation to provide firm water supplies to wildlife refuges and to increase supplies over the next ten years.
- Maintains Restoration Fund and surcharges on CVP water and power customers while providing flexibility.
- Prohibits the release of water from Friant Dam for purposes other than flood control or to meet contractual demands.
- Provides for CVPIA payments to be credited against repayment of CVP.
- Replaces obligation to restore anadromous fish with a requirement of participation in the large state effort established by the Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program.

## Why the Increase in the Cost of Gas?



Steady growth in world oil demand, combined with only modest increases in world oil production capacity, and the continuing risks of geopolitical instability, are expected to keep crude oil prices high through 2006. These same factors, as well as the ongoing implementation of domestic fuel quality requirements, are expected to keep consumer prices for motor fuels and other petroleum products high in 2006. That is why Congress must act quickly and decisively to increase domestic production of oil by opening the Artic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the Outer Continental Shelf to exploration.

Furthermore, no new refineries have been built in the United States in more than 30 years due to arcane and ineffective environmental regulations. For that reason, Congressman Nunes supported the GAS Act last year. This common sense proposal encourages the construction of new refineries to increase supply and address soaring gasoline prices; limits "boutique fuels" that have propped up gasoline prices by artificially limiting supply; promotes new pipelines to get new crude oil and refined products to consumers at lower prices; promotes conservation through carpooling and

fuel-efficiency awareness campaigns, among other initiatives.

By increasing domestic supplies of oil and the ease with which those supplies can move about the country, folks will see a drop in the price they pay at the pump.

## Tips to Help Reduce Your Tax Liability and Home Energy Costs

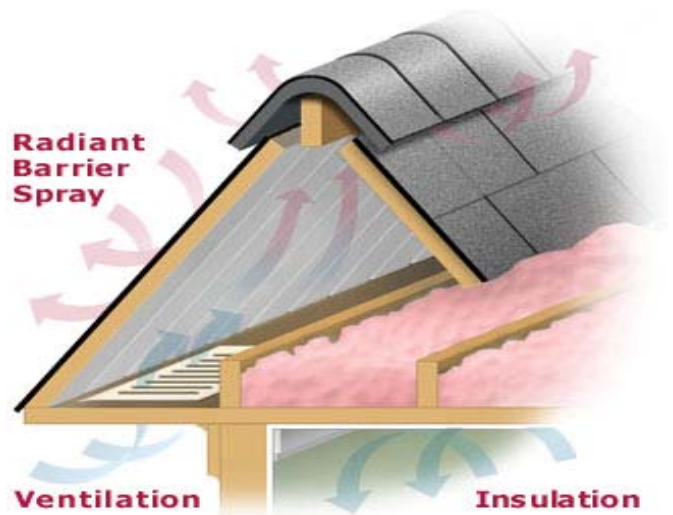
This past summer, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This vitally important legislation includes a tax credit of up to \$500 for increasing insulation in existing homes. This incentive went into effect for home energy efficiency improvements made in 2006 and 2007. The credit is for 10% of qualified home improvements for a total of \$500 over the two tax years. Other measures you can take to earn the tax credit include updating your windows and installing energy efficient heating and cooling equipment.

Congressman Nunes supported this incentive because it will help folks in the San Joaquin Valley put more

money back in their pockets. Furthermore, he encourages all residents to look at their energy use and take advantage of these tax credits to start saving money now.

Additionally, there are simple things that everyone can do, at little or no cost, to help control energy use. One of the most effective things is to add the right amount of insulation to your attic. Coupled with caulking and sealing around windows and doors, this can save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

With rising energy prices this summer, it will be important for folks to begin think-



ing about ways to reduce their energy consumption. While we were helped this year by a relatively mild winter, we can not assume that the summer months will be as kind. Please look into

these cost and energy saving measures. You can find more information about this tax credit and other energy saving measures at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).